

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EA-07 NSA-01 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15
/107 W

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R 161809Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9802
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0368
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD FR
SUBJECT: TRADE MINISTER ROSSI DISCUSSES TRADE POLICY
ISSUES.

1. FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ROSSI ADDRESSED A LARGE AUDIENCE FEBRUARY 14 INVITED BY THE INSTITUTE SUPERIEUR DE COMMERCE, AND THE ADDRESS WAS FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH FIVE LEADING BUSINESSMEN AND FIVE ECONOMIC JOURNALISTS.
 2. ROSSI'S MAIN POINT WAS TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER EFFORT AT EXPORTING, ESPECIALLY BY THE SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISE. HE SAID INCREASING EXPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS TO DEVELOPED AND SOLVENT MARKETS IS THE BEST RESPONSE TO FRANCE'S TRADE DEFICIT. A REDUCTION IN IMPORTS COULD ALSO BE BROUGHT ABOUT IF FRENCH PRODUCERS SOUGHT TO RECONQUER THE FRENCH
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MARKET. ROSSI SOFT-PEDALED THE "BUY-FRENCH" THEME. HE MADE NO RESPONSE TO ONE JOURNALIST'S EFFORT TO DRAW HIM OUT ON THAT SUBJECT. THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT DIRECTLY CRITICIZED DURING THE THREE-HOUR AFTER-DINNER PROGRAM, BUT CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED OVER TRADING PRACTICES OF ITALY AND JAPAN WHILE GERMANY WAS CRITICIZED FOR "LOW SOCIAL CHARGES."

3. DURING THE DISCUSSION PERIOD ROSSI MADE TWO POINTS OF GENERAL INTEREST. AFTER SUMMARIZING FRANCE'S WELL-KNOWN POSITIONS FOR THE MTN, NOTABLY TARIFF HARMONIZATION AND THE SPECIAL NATURE OF AGRICULTURE ISSUES, HE SAID THAT IN THE EC FRANCE WOULD POSE AS A PRECONDITION SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD IMPROVED CUSTOMS VALUATION PRACTICES. DISCUSSING EC AGRICULTURAL PRICES IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, ROSSI SAID THAT IF FRANCE WERE NOT SATISFIED BY APRIL 1 REGARDING MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS, THEN FRANCE WOULD HAVE TO RESORT TO "UNILATERAL NATIONAL MEASURES."

4. DESPITE PRESENCE OF ACTIVIST ECONOMIC JOURNALISTS, THE PROGRAM WAS NOT REPORTED IN PRESS WITH EXCEPTION OF MINOR ITEM IN "LE NOUVEAU JOURNAL."
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, FR, (ROSSI, ANDRE)
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